

From: Mike Ireland
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Having reviewed the decisions and documents on the DOJ web site and reading other sources extensively, I believe that the settlement which the DOJ has ascribed to is patented permission for Microsoft to continue its predatory practices. This is further affirmed by the proposal which Microsoft has made in settling the private suits. This proposal flies in the face of the finding of facts that Microsoft is a monopoly. Their proposal to "fund" up to \$1 billion to bring computers to schools using their own proprietary software and their vested interest in machines that only run their software based on Windows smacks of arrogance and further attests to the monopolistic nature of their company. This actions shows that they show no inclination to make changes.

Coupled with their introduction of Windows XP, which demands that users pay additional fees for the use of their product, this settlement locks consumers further into Microsoft's chokehold on the industry. That the Department of Justice would even consider going along with this settlement after the result of the appeal to the Federal Court of Appeals which stated unequivocally that Microsoft is a monopoly makes me wonder if the decision of the settlement is one based on law or politics or worse - convenience.

I believe strongly that the DOJ should reconsider its stand and withdraw from the proposed settlement, at the least to fend off any duplicity or potential conflicts of interest. As a consumer, I want choice. Just because 90-95% of the world uses a product is no reason to delay the possibility that there is something better that is yet to be invented. Microsoft's monopoly prevents this from happening. The settlement is grossly flawed. The only fair remedy would be to break the company into at least two separate entities in order to foster competition and prevent further predatory behavior by Microsoft.

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